

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I agree with Senator Johnson, we're getting close and I think we have got a very good program we can look at here. To Senator Pirsch, my tire idea simply was premature. I really feel it was premature. It's...in all the literature, all the literature I have read, it said when you first start implementing your taxes, you will have to almost assuredly implement a discriminatory tax. No matter who you start with, they will holler discrimination, and rightly so. But that discrimination is justified. It is justified in the fact that you have to target someone and right now the state, as Senator Johnson has pointed out, it's just impossible for us to spread the base right now without a very complicated, very complex system. The plan that we are working toward right now will identify the proper way to fund this. They will spread the base out to everyone if done correctly, that is, producing waste. The fees can and most probably will change next year. As the plan is brought about, it will almost assuredly recommend legislation needed, rules and regulations needed to spread the funding base out, to start towards a proper integrated solid waste management plan. If tires are then identified as the major problem, they will most assuredly be addressed. As Senator Johnson said, the way it's written now, they are...if someone brings a project that is approved, tires can be addressed now. And possibly next year, possibly next year the tire tax will come off. It depends on what comes out of this study. You simply can't say or shouldn't say what you're going to do with your waste when you don't know exactly what your waste stream is. We must go out, identify the waste stream, and then develop plans to address the volumes of those subsections of waste, identify proper methods of funding that will spread the funding base across to all producers of waste. We're looking at a very good start here, a very good start. We could have spent a lot more money but the reality is we might not have that much more but this should be a priority to the state. I know it is a priority to a lot of people that have been working their tails off in my area down in southeast Nebraska for quite some time and they're basically waiting for the state to catch up and give them some help, give them some funding for projects, funding for chippers, for compactors and on and on, and then help with some leadership, a flexible plan, help with deciding permanent long-lasting, wide-based funding for the continued problem. It's not going to go away, we all know that. It's not going to go away, the continued problem of solid waste management in this state. I think we're almost there and I think it would be nice to get this done before lunch